



The Retail Merchants of Hawaii

For nearly 120 years, Retail Merchants of Hawaii has served as the voice of Hawaii's retail industry. We are a vibrant and creative collective of the best in retail that advocates, educates and celebrates our statewide retail industry.

OUR MISSION is to promote the welfare; provide resources; advance the interest;, and serve as an advocate for the retail industry in business, government, and the community.

OUR STORY begins on April 23, 1901 when the Treasurer of the Territory of Hawaii granted a charter to the Merchants Association of Honolulu. It was the first organized group to represent the retail trade. Back then there were only a handful of merchants, and the common issues were creating a stable monetary system, improving shipping facilities and sanitation and laying of telegraphic cable for a faster communication system.

In 1914, it was apparent that a united business front could achieve greater success. As a result, the Merchants Association of Hawaii merged with another association to form a Retail Board. This board operated independently with its own elected officers, structure, and By-Laws.

In 1994 the Retail Merchants of Hawaii became an independent 501(c)(6) Non-Profit Trade organization whose focus continues to be on addressing the concerns, welfare and needs of the retail industry in government, business and the community.

TODAY, 27% of jobs in Hawaii are supported by the retail industry. We continue to be a statewide organization whose membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, online sellers, and everyone in between. Our goals are to (1) Advocate for the retail industry in government and the community; (2) Provide educational opportunities, resources, and timely information; (3) Promote the welfare of the retail industry and our communities and (4) Foster networking and partnership opportunities.